Friendship 1950 the citizens of the two countries are free to move across Indo-Nepal border on reciprocal basis. Therefore, it is very difficult to have firm estimates of citizens of one country crossing into another country at any peint of time. No large scale migration of people from Nepal to India has however, come to Government's notice. Also'no cases of AIDS patients have been reported.

(c) and (d) There are reports of several divisive forces makin,? efforts to infiltrate! anti-national elements into the country but all concerned agencies esipecially in border areas have been alerted to keep strong vigil to prevent entry and exist of undesirablg elements. Some of the measures adopted are as follows:—

(i) Goveimnent have taken steps to increase vigilance on the border to check the activities of undesirable elements and militants

(ii) All Central and State Agencies have been instructed step up conforce-ment efforts in a coordinated meaner.

(iii) Regular W-lateral contact is be. iaoi maintained with the authorities of His Majesty's Government in N-Pal at various level s foe closer cooperation between the agencies of the two countries for combating trans-border crimfli and tentorism.

Contract to KELTRON for supplv of elec/rical and electronic items for Defence

*306. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'the Kerala Govern ment reaiipsted for oflFering contract to KELTRON, a State Public Sec tor Undertaing for supply of elect rical and electronic items to Defence; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YA^ DAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The offers of M/s Keltron have been duly considered. During the last six years, orders worth over Rs. 29.5 crores have been given to the Company by the Department of Defence Production & Supplies alone Contracts amounting to Rs. 630.71 lakhs have been awarded to the company during 1997. Two oflE-ers of M/s Keltron *sie* under consi-deration .

Funds for widening of State High ways

*307. SHRI V. HANUMANT-HA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to fund the widening of heavily used State Highways;

(b) if so, the criterion adopted to assist the widening of specific Stats Highways;

(c) whether any such request has come from Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VEN^ KATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of roads declared as National High-wavs. Roads other than National Highways are essentially the responbility of the concerned State Gov-ernments .

However, the Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments for roads of inter-State and economic importance. Under this scheme, 100 per cent loan assistance is given to the projects which have

inter-State characteristics and 50 per cent for projects of a particular State. The criterion adopted are as under:—

(i) Inter-State Roads/Bridges necessary for ensuring through communication;

(ii) Roads/Bridges required for opening up new areas to which railway facilities cannot be provi-*i* ded in the near future.

(iii) Roads/Bridges which can contribute materially to rapid economic development, e.g. in hilly .areas and places having mineral resources for exploitation.

(iv) Roads or bridges connecting National Highways.

Proposals for assistance are sanctioned on the tasis of detailed estimates.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hardwaire requirements of tbs Armed Forces

*308. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whft are the major military hard ware requirements for the armed forces on which the coiratry continue's to be dependent on imports;

(b) the estimated annual expsndifure being incurred by Government on the imports of military hardware;

(c) the steps taken by Government to far the indigenisation of the military hardware .iintj the achievement in remo ving forcijjn de-pendency; and

(d) what strategy has been formulated by Govrnment to step up the indigeni-satioa of the key areas of military hardware requirements and the period by which self sufficiency in these areas is to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV-: (a) and (b) India continuces to import systems and equipment from abroad for the Navy, Air Force and Army including aircraft, bhips, submarines and their sub-systems whose production in India is not feasible or viable. The annual expenditure oa imports includes debt repayment for previoussly purchased eq-uipment from different 'sources.

(c) and (d) At ten-year plan for self-reliance in Defence Systems has been evolved to increas the ratio of expenditure on defence systems procured from indig enous sources to the total exi'enditu e on acquisitions in a particular year from the present level of 30 percent lo 70 percent by the year 2005. A 'Self-reliawce Implementation Council' under the chairmanship of Snentiflc Advis:r to RM has been constituted for the purpose.

A three-pronged thrust for achieving self-reliance is envisaged by (i) su'staining the existing defence systems through in-di'jenisation of spares, (ii) upgrading ex isting weapon 'systems, (iii) progressive induction of more indigenous defence systems aad reduce the imports of major systems.

National Sericulture Projects

*309. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have selected National Sericulture Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features with along-details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount of tinaacial assistance received by Government from differetit international agencies and fund's allotted to the States in the country, Stage-wise; and